AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.   (Currently Amended) A system facilitating rule composition comprising:

a processor communicatively coupled to a computer readable medium having stored thereon a rule composer that in response to a user input facilitates at least one of creation and modification of a rule, the rule composer further receiving information associated with the at least one of creation and modification of the rule based, at least in part, upon natural language inline editing; and,

a display component that displays <u>the rule in a tree structure, the tree structure including a first node for the conditions of the rule and a second node for the actions of the rule, wherein the first node includes one or more sub-nodes that each define either an AND, OR, or NOT logical relationship.</u>~~hierarchical information associated with the rule.~~

2.   (Original) The system of claim 1, further comprising an input component that facilitates receipt of information associated with the at least one of creation and modification of the rule.

3.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule being a business rule.

4.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule being based, at least in part, upon a parameterized format string definition.

5.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule being based, at least in part, upon a composable vocabulary definition.

6.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>wherein the first node is displayed in a first splitting panel of a user interface, and the second node is displayed</u>

in a second splitting panel of the user interface. ~~the display component facilitating a user interface comprising a first splitting panel and a second splitting panel.~~

7-9.   (Canceled)

10.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>wherein</u> the display component ~~facilitating a user interface comprising~~<u>also displays</u> a property window that displays a property of a node of the <u>tree structure</u>~~hierarchical information~~.

11-12. (Canceled)

13.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 1, <u>wherein</u> the display component ~~facilitating display of~~<u>also displays</u> a context menu associated with at least one of an action and a condition associated with the rule.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer comprising a rule editor and a policy explorer.

16.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of a parameter having a range.

17.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of an unconstrained parameter.

18.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating editing of a parameter having a value in a set of values.

19.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating type compatibility checking.

20.   (Original) The system of claim 1, the rule composer facilitating error checking and providing error information to the display component if an error is found.

21-30. (Canceled)

31.   (New) A method, performed by a computer, for displaying and editing a business rule comprising:

displaying, on a display device of a computer, a tree structure having a first node for defining conditions of a business rule, and second node for defining actions to be taken when the conditions of the business rule are satisfied;

receiving user input that selects a first logical relationship to add to the first node of the tree structure, the first logical relationship comprising one of an AND, OR, or NOT logical relationship;

creating a first sub-node under the first node of the tree structure that defines the first logical relationship;

receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node;

adding the one or more conditions to the first sub-node;

receiving user input that specifies one or more actions of the business rule; and

adding the actions to the second node of the tree structure.

32.   (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving user input that selects a second logical relationship to add to the first sub-node, the second logical relationship comprising one of an AND, OR, or NOT logical relationship;

creating a second sub-node under the first sub-node that defines the second logical relationship;

receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the second sub-node; and

adding the one or more conditions to the second sub-node.

33.   (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the first logical relationship is an AND logical relationship, and the second logical relationship is an OR logical relationship.

34.   (New) The method of claim 31, wherein each of the one or more conditions comprises a vocabulary definition and one or more parameters.

35.   (New) The method of claim 34, wherein receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node comprises:

receiving a drag and drop operation that drags and drops the vocabulary definition and the one or more parameters to the first sub-node.

36.   (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising displaying a prompt string under the first node that prompts the user to provide the user input that specifies the one or more conditions to add to the first node.

37.   (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising replacing the prompt string with the user input received that specifies the one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node.

38.   (New) The method of claim 34, further comprising type checking the one or more parameters.

39.   (New) A computer storage medium storing computer executable instructions which when executed by a process of a computer performs a method for creating and editing a business rule comprising:

displaying, on a display device of a computer, a tree structure having a first node for defining conditions of a business rule, and second node for defining actions to be taken when the conditions of the business rule are satisfied;

receiving user input that selects a first logical relationship to add to the first node of the tree structure, the first logical relationship comprising one of an AND, OR, or NOT logical relationship;

creating a first sub-node under the first node of the tree structure that defines the first logical relationship;

receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node;

adding the one or more conditions to the first sub-node;

receiving user input that specifies one or more actions of the business rule; and

adding the actions to the second node of the tree structure.

40.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 39, further comprising:

receiving user input that selects a second logical relationship to add to the first sub-node, the second logical relationship comprising one of an AND, OR, or NOT logical relationship;

creating a second sub-node under the first sub-node that defines the second logical relationship;

receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the second sub-node; and

adding the one or more conditions to the second sub-node.

41.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 40, wherein the first logical relationship is an AND logical relationship, and the second logical relationship is an OR logical relationship.

42.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 39, wherein each of the one or more conditions comprises a vocabulary definition and one or more parameters.

43.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 42, wherein receiving user input that specifies one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node comprises:

receiving a drag and drop operation that drags and drops the vocabulary definition and the one or more parameters to the first sub-node.

44.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 39, further comprising displaying a prompt string under the first node that prompts the user to provide the user input that specifies the one or more conditions to add to the first node.

45.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 44, further comprising replacing the prompt string with the user input received that specifies the one or more conditions to add to the first sub-node.

46.   (New) The computer storage medium of claim 42, further comprising type checking the one or more parameters.